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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,883	07/30/2003	Seth A. Foerster	END-897DIV2	7937
21984 7590 08/23/2010 WELSH & FLAXMAN LLC 2000 DUKE STREET, SUITE 100 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER SZMAL, BRIAN SCOTT				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3736				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,883

Applicant(s)

FOERSTER ET AL.

Examiner

Brian Szmaj

Art Unit

3736

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 53-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 53-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2009 and 30 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ ~~Notes of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Oath/Declaration

1. This application presents a claim for subject matter not originally claimed or embraced in the statement of the invention. Claims 53, 54 and 58 contain subject matter similar to the preliminary amendment filed on July 30, 2003. The claims contain subject matter that is not fully disclosed in the current specification. In particular, the current specification is silent with respect to the creation of a cavity site from which a tissue sample has been removed during a breast biopsy. A supplemental oath or declaration is required under 37 CFR 1.67. The new oath or declaration must properly identify the application of which it is to form a part, preferably by application number and filing date in the body of the oath or declaration. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

Priority

2. The Applicants claim priority to 08/308,097, filed on September 16, 1994. However, due to the fact that the above-mentioned claimed subject matter is not directly disclosed in the current specification, the current application is being treated as a Continuation-In-Part, with the effective filing date of July, 30, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitation: "when the marker is disposed in a biopsy cavity created when the tissue has been removed" is not taught or suggested in the current specification.

5. Claims 54-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 54 discloses a method step of "removing tissue to form a biopsy cavity". The current specification fails to support this limitation. The current specification only discloses the use of a biopsy device to place the biopsy marker at a location, not creating a cavity in tissue via the removal of a tissue sample.

6. Claims 54-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 56 and 57 disclose the use of a radiopaque material. Claim 54 discloses the use of ultrasound to detect the marker once placed within the tissue.

Claims 56 and 57, in conjunction with the disclosure of Claim 54, disclose an embodiment of the marker wherein the marker is imaged via two different imaging systems since ultrasound imaging does not use radiopaque substances to detect markers placed within tissue. Likewise Claims 61 and 62, in conjunction with Claim 58, disclose an embodiment of the marker wherein the marker is imaged via two different imaging systems since ultrasound imaging does not use radiopaque substances to detect markers placed within tissue. Radiopaque materials are only used to view the implanted marker via x-ray, mammography, and CAT scans. Radiopaque materials are not viewable using ultrasound. Furthermore, the current specification fails to disclose the ultrasonic detection of a marker using radiopaque material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 53-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burbank et al (6,161,034) in view of Wolff et al (5,545,208).

Burbank et al disclose a means for marking a biopsy site and further disclose placing a mass or article of biodegradable material into the cavity site created by a biopsy, and imaging the implanted mass by using ultrasound. See Column 4, lines 59-62; Column 5, lines 47-64; Column 7, lines 47-67.

Burbank et al however fails to disclose a compressed woven mass of imageable biodegradable material.

Wolff et al discloses a biodegradable, self-expandable stent and further disclose the use of a contrast media for remote imaging. See Column 6, lines 62-63; Column 7, lines 25-28 and 45-49.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the marker element of Burbank et al to use an expandable biodegradable imageable woven article, as per the teachings of Wolff et al, since it would provide a means of marking a biopsy site that can be remotely imaged as well as being palpable to relocate the biopsy site.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments, filed June 16, 2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 58-63 under Wolff et al have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Burbank et al in view of Wolff et al.
10. Applicant's arguments filed June 16, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A new oath/declaration is required, as set forth above. The Applicant's argue the tissue removal is "inherent" in a biopsy procedure, but does not provide specific support from the current specification with respect to where a biopsy procedure is performed. While the Applicant argues the current specification discloses taking a biopsy sample,

the Examiner would like to note the current specification clearly discloses, in the Summary, the current invention is used to mark the location or margin of the lesion, prior to removing or sampling tissue. Therefore the marker element is not placed within a cavity formed by a biopsy procedure.

The Applicant's amendments to the claims have not overcome the previous or current 112 rejections.

Regarding Claims 53 and 54, the Applicant argues the Burbank et al reference does not qualify as prior art since the current application has a priority date of September 16, 1994, while Burbank et al has an earliest priority date of February 2, 1999. As stated above, and in the previous Office Action, the current specification does not disclose performing a biopsy to remove tissue to form a cavity. Since the claimed subject matter is similar in nature to the preliminary amendment filed on July 30, 2003, the current application is being treated as a continuation-in-part, with the earliest priority date of July 30, 2003. Therefore Burbank et al does qualify as prior art because the Applicant is not entitled to an earlier priority date.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Szmal whose telephone number is (571)272-4733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, with second Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571) 272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brian Szmal/
Examiner, Art Unit 3736